AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method for providing a transition between a first graphical user interface (GUI) element associated with a first application running on a computer and a corresponding, second GUI element associated with a second application running on the computer, the first application being displayed on a computer display in a first window and the second application in a second window, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting, when the first application is active, user selection of the second window to make the second application active;

removing from the computer display the first GUI element associated with the first application and replacing the first GUI element with the corresponding, second GUI element associated with the second application; and

in response to detecting the user selection of the second window, providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element with the second GUI element by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first and second GUI elements.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting the user selection comprises detecting the user clicking on the second window.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting further comprises detecting, when the first application is active and the second application is closed, the opening of the second application to make the second application active.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting further comprises detecting, when the first application is active and the second application is open, the quitting of the first application to make the second application active.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise rotation animation graphics.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise scrolling animation graphics.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise three-dimensional animation graphics.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

14. (Previously presented) A system for providing a transition between a first graphical user interface (GUI) element associated with a first application running on a computer and a corresponding, second GUI element associated with a second application running on the computer, the first application being displayed on a computer display in a first window and the second application in a second window, the system comprising:

means for detecting, when the first application is active, user selection of the second window to make the second application active;

means for removing the first GUI element associated with the first application that is displayed on the computer display and replacing the first GUI element with the corresponding, second GUI element associated with the second application; and

means responsive to detecting the user selection of the second window for providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element with the second GUI element by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first and second GUI elements.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for detecting the user selection is configured to detect the user clicking on the second window.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for detecting the user selection is configured to detect, when the first application is active and the second application is closed, the opening of the second application to make the second application active or, when the first application is active and the second application is open, the quitting of the first application to make the second application active.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render rotation animation graphics.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render scrolling animation graphics.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render three-dimensional animation graphics.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render the three-dimensional animation graphics by utilizing gray scales.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for providing visual notification is configured to render the three dimensional animation graphics utilizing gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

23. (Currently amended) A computer-readable ~~medium~~ data storage device containing a program that, when executed by a processor, controls a computer to provide ~~for providing~~ a transition between a first graphical user interface (GUI) element, which is associated with a first application running on [[a]] the computer, and a corresponding, second GUI element, which is associated with a second application running on the computer, the first application being displayed on a computer display in a first window and the second application being displayed on the computer display in a second window, wherein the program comprises ~~executing~~ the following steps:

detecting, when the first application is active, user selection of the second window to make the second application active;

removing from the computer display the first GUI element associated with the first application and replacing the first GUI element with the corresponding, second GUI element associated with the second application; and

in response to detecting the user selection of the second window, providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element with the second GUI element by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first and second GUI elements.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first GUI element comprises a first menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second GUI element comprises a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and wherein the step of replacing comprises retrieving the options for the second menu bar and displaying the retrieved options at appropriate locations for the second menu bar.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the first GUI element comprises a first menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second GUI element comprises a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and wherein the means for replacing is configured to retrieve the options for the second menu bar and display the retrieved options at appropriate locations for the second menu bar.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently amended) The computer-readable ~~medium~~ data storage device of claim 23, wherein the first GUI element comprises a first menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, and the second GUI element

comprises a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and

wherein the step of replacing comprises retrieving the options for the second menu bar and displaying the retrieved options at appropriate locations for the second menu bar.

28. (Previously presented) A method for providing a transition between two or more graphical user interface (GUI) elements comprising the steps of:

detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application to a second application, the first application being displayed in a first window on the computer's operating system GUI and the second application being displayed in a second window on the computer's operating system GUI;

removing a menu bar being displayed in a menu bar space on the computer's operating system GUI from a first menu bar associated with the first application and replacing the first menu bar with a second menu bar associated with the second application; and

in response to detecting the change between active applications, providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first and second menu bars.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the first menu bar includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second menu bar includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and wherein the step of replacing comprises retrieving the options for the second menu bar and displaying the retrieved options at appropriate locations for the second menu bar in the menu bar space.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the menu bar space is separate from each of the first and second windows.

31. (Previously presented) A system for providing a transition between two or more graphical user interface (GUI) elements comprising the steps of:

means for detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application to a second application, the first application being displayed in a first window on the computer's operating system GUI and the second application being displayed in a second window on the computer's operating system GUI;

means for removing a menu bar being displayed in a menu bar space on the computer's operating system GUI from a first menu bar associated with the first application and replacing the first menu bar with a second menu bar associated with the second application; and

means responsive to detecting the change between active applications for providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first and second menu bars.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the first menu bar includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second menu bar includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and wherein the means for replacing is configured to retrieve the options for the second menu bar and display the retrieved options at appropriate locations for the second menu bar in the menu bar space.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the menu bar space is separate from each of the first and second windows.

34. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium containing a program for providing a transition between two or more graphical user interface (GUI) elements that executes the following steps:

detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application to a second application, the first application being displayed in a first window on the computer's operating system GUI and the second application being displayed in a second window on the computer's operating system GUI;

removing a menu bar being displayed in a menu bar space on the computer's operating system GUI from a first menu bar associated with the first application and replacing the first menu bar with a second menu bar associated with the second application; and

in response to detecting the change between active applications, providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate a transition between the display of the first and second menu bars.

35. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the first menu bar includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second menu bar includes a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application, and wherein the step of replacing comprises retrieving the options for the second menu bar and displaying the retrieved options at appropriate locations for the second menu bar in the menu bar space.

36. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the menu bar space is separate from each of the first and second windows.

37. (New) A computer-implemented method for providing a transition between a first graphical user interface (GUI) element and a corresponding second GUI element displayed on a display device, wherein:

the first GUI element is associated with a first application running on a computer,

the second GUI element is associated with a second application running on the computer,

the first application is displayed on the display device in a first area, said first area being a first window,

the second application is displayed on the display device in a second area, said second area being a second window, and

the first GUI element and the second GUI element are displayed within a third area of the display device,

the method comprising:

detecting, when the first application is active, a user-selection of the second window, said user-selection being received from a data entry device;

making, based on said detection of the user-selection, the second application active;

removing the first GUI element from the third area of the computer display; and

replacing the first GUI element with the corresponding, second GUI element at the third area of the computer display.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said making the second application active includes bringing the second window to the foreground of the display device.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein replacing the first GUI element includes providing visual notification of the replacement of the first GUI element with the second GUI

element by rendering on the display device animation graphics of the third area transitioning between the display of the first GUI element and the second GUI element.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein:

the first GUI element comprises a first menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application, and

the second GUI element comprises a second menu bar having a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application.